

BLUE VALENTINE

"POIGNANT AND TRAGIC"

REVIEW, PAGE 12



THE GATEWAY



volume CI number 28 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, january 25, 2011

inside



The Gateway hates learning

A new report shows students aren't learning much in college — but hyperbolic studies about the failings of undergrads are a dime a dozen.

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Genetics gone horribly right

Dee and Kay try to use recent scientific advancements to revive their childhood.

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Having your drink spiked is a traumatic experience. A look at the story behind getting dosed.

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U of A student files human rights complaint against department

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
Senior News Editor

A University of Alberta graduate student has filed an Alberta human rights complaint against the Department of Cell Biology for unfair treatment after he complained about a faculty member whom he claims made racist comments.

Salah Rahmani complained to the department in March 2010 after a faculty member on his supervisory committee allegedly called Rahmani less intelligent than a dog, untalented, and too old to be a student. The allegations have not been proven.

Rahmani says that he went to both the graduate co-ordinator Paul Melançon and Department Chair Richard Rachubinski with his concerns on separate occasions, but he says Rachubinski subsequently asked him to sign an apology letter for falsely accusing the faculty member of racism.

"I didn't sign the apology letter. I said, 'I haven't done anything wrong. I just expressed what happened for me in the department and with this faculty member. And I am requesting that you

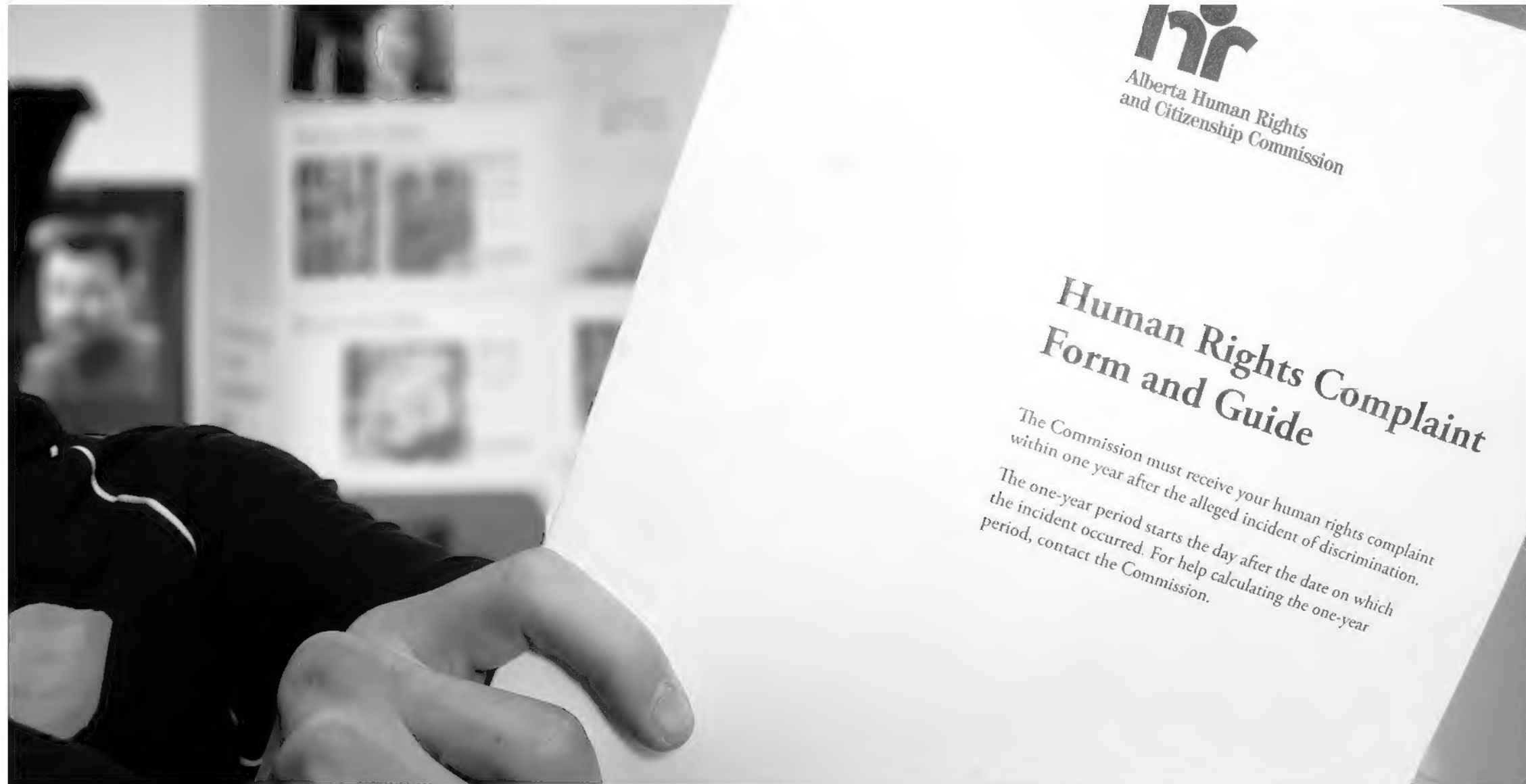


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

find a solution," Rahmani said.

Rahmani declined to sign the letter and requested a meeting with the department in the presence of a human rights representative. His request was denied, and although Rahmani continued his study in the department, he says he was asked to withdraw voluntarily from

his program.

Rahmani says he was called to another meeting on May 11, which he was told was mandatory. Present at the meeting was Rachubinski, Melançon, some other administrators, and a psychologist. Rahmani brought a representative from Edmonton's Centre for Race and Culture with him

to the meeting.

At this meeting, Rahmani claims he was told that if he didn't sign an apology letter, he would have to leave the department. They also allegedly told him that if he did not leave voluntarily, they would call campus security.

PLEASE SEE COMPLAINT ♦ PAGE 3

Researcher examines role of music in news delivery

JOHN KMECH
Editor-in-Chief

Music is regularly used to alter our perceptions of television news and was particularly important in building support for the war in Iraq, according to a professor of music from Carleton University who spoke at the University of Alberta last Thursday.

James Deaville said that television networks use music and sound to not only influence people's attitudes about their stations, but to actively change what people think about the facts being presented to them. It was part of his lecture entitled, "Sounding the War in Iraq: The Politics of Television News Music."

"We as musicians and trained listeners may have observed the role of music in creating some affect in those images, but how many members of the American public at large [...] know that the music is selling them a certain take on the news and on the war?" Deaville asked. "In the context of television, this political application of music [...] is all the more

powerful not only by virtue of the size of its audience, but because it is invisible and seems natural."

To demonstrate his point, Deaville played several video and audio clips from multiple stations to show how music made viewers feel differently about the news broadcasts they were watching. He described the percussion accompanying the opening of CBC's *The National* as "almost militant," while the "scurrying violins" and brass at the beginning of NBC's *Dateline* program were said to establish a sense of urgency and authority.

Deaville also gave examples of different uses of music within broadcasts, such as intro themes and "promo beds," music played in the background as news anchors spoke.

The main focus of Deaville's research is how music was used in the news after 9/11 for the war on terrorism, leading up to the war in Iraq. He explained that many major networks across North America had ordered music in anticipation for the Iraq War, weeks or even months in advance.

PLEASE SEE MUSIC ♦ PAGE 4



ARMAND LUDNICK

SOARIN' The varsity track team hosted their first meet of the year this weekend. Placing well, the Pandas and Bears qualified 13 athletes for CIS nationals.

THE GATEWAY

www.thegatewayonline.ca

tuesday, january 25, 2011
volume CI number 28Published since november 21, 1910
Circulation 8,000
ISSN 0845-356XSuite 3-04
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University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.



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The Gateway periodically adjusts its circulation between 8,000 to 10,000 printed copies based on market fluctuations and other determining factors.

colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Settlers of Catan and Whoon.

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Evelyn Pankiv, Rachel Singer, Siwei Chen, Miranda Kolodnicki, Dulguun Bayasgalan, Alex Migdal, Kevin Lee Pinkoski, Andrew Jeffrey, Grant Crawford, Ryan Bromsgrove, Lauren Alston, Bruce Cinnamon, Brad Chury, Derrick Nguyen, Paul Cressey, Bobby Williamson, Aaron Yeo, Armand Ludnick, Danielle Jensen



DAN MCKECHNIE

Residents of St. Joseph's College hung hockey jerseys out their windows Friday in an annual tradition of remembrance for Dean Mortensen, a U of A student who went missing while walking home from Lister in 1992. This year marks the 19th anniversary of his disappearance, which sparked the creation of the campus Safewalk program.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Dan McKechnie and Evelyn Pankiv

As you may be aware, a U of A student wore the same pair of jeans for 15 months without washing them. What is the longest you've gone without doing laundry and why?

**Connor MacDonald**
Arts IV**Marisa Haylett**
Education V**Anton Lim**
U of A alumnus**Anthony Zerbin**
Psychology II

For jeans, it's probably been about four months. It's these ones, actually. I prefer them unwashed. I like the way they feel.

I don't know, not a very long time; maybe like a week, two weeks? Jeans are different, you don't need to wash jeans as much.

I wore the same pair of jeans for a week, but I had long johns under. *[Is a week your record?]* I think so.

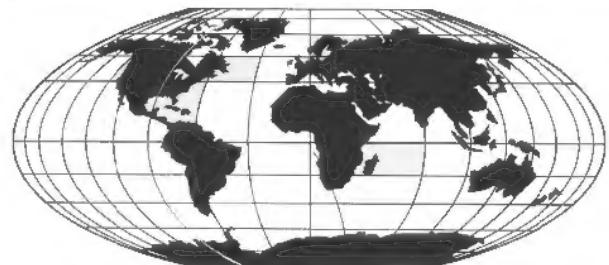
I could possibly have gone maybe three weeks, but that's only jeans. Shirts I change every day, socks every day, underwear every day.

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The Gateway goes behind the scenes at a Golden Bears hockey game, offering you three different perspectives on the same match. Check out our feature this Thursday to get inside the locker room like never before.

THE GATEWAY

More thorough than Pierre McGuire since 1910

Student says department forced him out

University can't comment because of confidentiality, student looking for new supervisor

COMPLAINT ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In another meeting, they asked me to sign an [apology] letter as well, but they didn't underline any condition until that meeting and it was unexpected," he said.

"They forced me, under psychological pressure, to leave the department. So I didn't have any choice. I didn't want to involve security, so I gave them the keys and I left the campus."

Rahmani believes that he was forced to leave the department because he mentioned potentially filing a human rights complaint, which he filed on May 25, 2010.

Rachubinski and Melançon both declined to comment on the matter and instead referred questions to the U of A legal team.

"The purpose of expressing my thoughts and the events is to find a resolution [...] At the end, I'm expecting to come back to the university and continue my studying."

SALAH RAHMANI
GRADUATE STUDENT

After that meeting, Dean of Students Frank Robinson arranged another meeting for June 1 between himself, Rahmani, Melançon, and Bill Mowbray, the director of U of A Protective Services, among others, but Rahmani didn't attend.

"I didn't attend that because I told them this isn't solved for me when you are bringing security. I'm not a criminal. I haven't done anything wrong," he said.

On July 26, Rahmani submitted a statement to the Provost's office, which informed him that Mazi Shirvani, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), was dealing with his file.



AARON YEO

MEETING ADJOURNED Rahmani's file is now being handled by FGSR and not the Department of Cell Biology.

Since Rahmani's appointment in Cell Biology ended on August 31, 2010, he applied for a transfer to the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. His transfer was approved, but he can't find a supervisor, and he believes it's because potential candidates found out that he was removed from the Cell Biology department.

"I believe the university is not co-operating to solve the problem and they are just killing time. It's about eight months that I have been removed from the campus, but they never ask me to come to the university, to discuss the situation, and to solve the problem [...] So therefore, I didn't have any choice. I decided to submit the human rights complaint to the Alberta Human Rights Commission."

Shirvani couldn't comment on

Rahmani's specific case, but did explain that, when transferring from one department to another, there are different ways to secure a supervisor, but the transfer process is unaffected by this.

"However it happens, it doesn't impede the actual process of transfer," he said.

Shirvani also added that a student without a supervisor can get a start on their studies, although they will need a mentor eventually.

"You can certainly make a start. But I understand Mr. Rahmani is interested in pursuing doctoral degrees [...] he's in medical sciences, so most of the research is done in a lab, so you need to join a research group [...] eventually he will need a supervisor," Shirvani said. "People can always make a start, because almost all doctoral students

have to start by taking some courses."

Rahmani said that he hopes to continue his studies at the U of A after this problem is resolved.

"The purpose of expressing my thoughts and the events is to find a resolution. If I don't express myself, how can [the university] solve this problem? If [they] treat a student like me, next time another student won't trust [them] to come discuss her or his problem," he said. "At the end, I'm expecting to come back to the university and continue my studying."

University of Alberta officials explained that since the human rights complaint has not yet reached the public tribunal stage, the proceedings are confidential and they are unable to comment. The commission's investigation is still ongoing.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Alexandria Eldridge

SNIFFIN' TO START THE MORNIN'

On January 21 at 9:30 a.m., UAPS received a call from Human Resources staff at University Terrace about a man acting strangely. UAPS attended and dealt with the male, who was inhaling paint thinner. UAPS seized the male's solvent and turned him over to EPS for an outstanding warrant.

ANGER MANAGEMENT

UAPS received a call about a male yelling and being aggressive towards others in the HUB LRT station on January 21 at 7 p.m. ETS personnel were advised of the disturbance and attended. The male had an extensive history with transit and had been dealt with numerous times. The man was told to leave campus.

ASSAULT IN HENDAY

On January 22 just before 3 a.m., UAPS attended the fifth floor of Henday and spoke to two males who had been involved in an assault. According to one of the males, an assault had taken place when his girlfriend had been choked in her room and pushed up against her bed. Her boyfriend approached the male who had assaulted her and punched him. None of the participants wanted to contact EPS to file assault charges. UAPS are currently investigating the matter further and one of the residents was moved to another suite.

FINDERS, KEEPERS

UAPS were called on January 22 at 5 p.m. to investigate the "disappearance" of a \$13,000 microscope from a lab in the Earth Sciences building. Staff in the area noticed the equipment missing during an inventory in December. An email was sent out to staff in the department asking if anyone had "borrowed" it, but no one has come forward with any information as to its whereabouts.

LONG WAY FROM HOME

On January 22 at 6 p.m., UAPS received a report of a male sleeping in the Business Atrium. UAPS attended and woke up the male who had been there for several hours. The male had an outstanding warrant in Saskatchewan and was trespassed from campus and sent on his way.

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

UAPS received a report of marijuana being smoked in a HUB suite on January 23 at 7 p.m. UAPS attended and spoke to the residents, who admitted to smoking drugs in their suite. Residence Services staff will be speaking to the males about their behavior and Code of Student Behavior charges are pending.

campus digest

Compiled by Alexandria Eldridge

IT'S A RICH MAN'S WORLD

The Canada Foundation for Innovation announced last Friday that 34 U of A researchers will be receiving \$7.1 million in funding. The CFI provides funding for research at Canadian universities and announced funds for 48 institutions, with the U of A receiving the second-highest amount of funding.

AND THE ANTS GO MARCHING...

U of A graduate student James Glasier recently discovered that Alberta has almost double the number of ant species as previously thought, with a total of 89 species, whereas 40 were previously identified.

Postsecondary ringette players raise money for cancer

RACHEL SINGER
News Writer

University of Alberta ringette players raised \$90,000 for the Cross Cancer Institute at the second-annual Ringette Scores on Cancer tournament this past weekend, getting most of the way to their \$100,000 goal.

"This year we have 18 teams in the tournament, with about 200-300 kids," U of A ringette team member Paige Parsons explained. "Everyone is pretty young in the tournament, which is kind of neat to see — young kids really getting into it and giving back to the community."

The goal of the tournament is to raise funds for the Cross Cancer Institute. Each player, which includes kids from leagues across Edmonton and area, must raise a minimum of \$100 to participate. This is donated along with money raised from raffle sales and silent auction prizes. Last year, the team raised \$55,000 and this year they've managed to raise even more.

"What happens is that instead of

paying costly tournament fees, the players that participate raise the money and they get sponsors," Parsons said.

Paul Hotke, the manager of the U of A's ringette team, came up with the idea last year for the tournament. The U of A ringette team, as well as some students from Grant MacEwan University and Concordia University College of Alberta do the legwork for the event, such as monitoring the silent auction, selling raffle tickets, and refereeing the games.

"Our team is really proud of this tournament, moreso than how we do competition-wise," Parsons added. "It's really exciting for us as university students to have this ability to give back to the community."

Competition-wise, the U of A ringette team has also had a fairly successful season, pulling in a silver medal at a tournament in Burnaby, B.C. in November, a bronze at the University Cup Challenge over New Years in London, Ont., and making it to the semi-finals in the Golden Ring tournament two weekends ago.



DAN MCKECHNIE

U of A team places first in MBA Games

SIWEI CHEN
News Staff

A team of University of Alberta students recently brought home the winning trophy from the 2011 MBA Games, beating 19 other schools from across the country just before the start of the winter semester.

From January 7–10, Canadian business schools were pitted against each other in academic, athletic, and spirit competitions in Toronto. Jessica Kennedy, the U of A MBA Games Organizing Committee President, said the entire weekend was full of non-stop activities for the 40 participants from the U of A.

"It's an entire weekend full of activities right from the moment you arrive at the hotel to the moment you leave [...] you're meeting people from across the country and waking up early and competing in either the athletic events or academic competitions," she said. "It's a chance to showcase the skills of your university and the talent that we have."

The A-Team, the U of A's team, came first in academics, second in athletics, and second in spirit, putting them in first place overall. After coming in second overall last year, they felt the need to come home with the Queen's Cup, the winning trophy, this year.

"One of the key factors in winning an MBA Games competition is having that work-hard, play-hard mentality, [...] and to know that you're going



SUPPLIED

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS The executives from the A-team hold their trophies after winning the 2011 MBA Games.

to be exhausted and to push through it anyways. And hey, maybe that's a good business strategy for life," Kennedy said.

Their victory did not come easily, however, and the judges kept them guessing until the end, as results were read off during the closing ceremonies at the end of the weekend.

"We still didn't know, because you don't know how the point structure is developed exactly. [But] we didn't come in third, we didn't come in second, and we were like [...] 'we may have won this!'" said Erin

Lampard, vice president (athletics) for the team.

"When they said our name, all forty of us were standing and cheering and [other] people were cheering for us because they knew we had brought the best competition we could."

Although there are no monetary prizes for winning the MBA Games, both Kennedy and Lampard felt they had gained personal rewards.

"They say business is all about networking. This is an opportunity where it's not as formal. It mixes first-year, second-year, and part-time students [...] So we had students on

there that we may not have known otherwise," Lampard said.

"Just the basics — from enhancing your presentation skills, your strategizing abilities, and your teamwork, and managing your time, it's definitely a good experience. That's part of the MBA program as a whole, but this takes it to another level. The pressure's high and the amount of sleep is lacking," Kennedy said.

The winning team also has the option of hosting the games the following year, which is tentatively set for January 6–8, 2012, the weekend before the start of winter term.

Music used to package the news

MUSIC ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Deaville, these sounds were packaged together with images by networks to drum up public support for the war and deceive citizens.

"The one element added to this news media mix that greatly increased the danger for the audience were the actual sounds of war, which helped turn the experience into a perverse live video game," he said. "When sound editors mixed the sounds of air raid sirens, weapons fire, and jet take-offs with a music track in the opening of the newscast, the result naturalized the violence."

Deaville began his current research around the year 2000, and said he became increasingly concerned after 9/11 with how networks seemed to be using music to create a war-like sentiment in the public. He sees his work as a way to help people understand how music can impact how they think on an everyday basis.

"The idea is to make people more aware, not only in the news, but how our perceptions in the world are often mediated by music in a subtle way. We tend to regard the news as factual, as something that is accurate [...] whereas the slant that the various networks and the news media can give it can sound more natural, more real, more believable as music is added to it."

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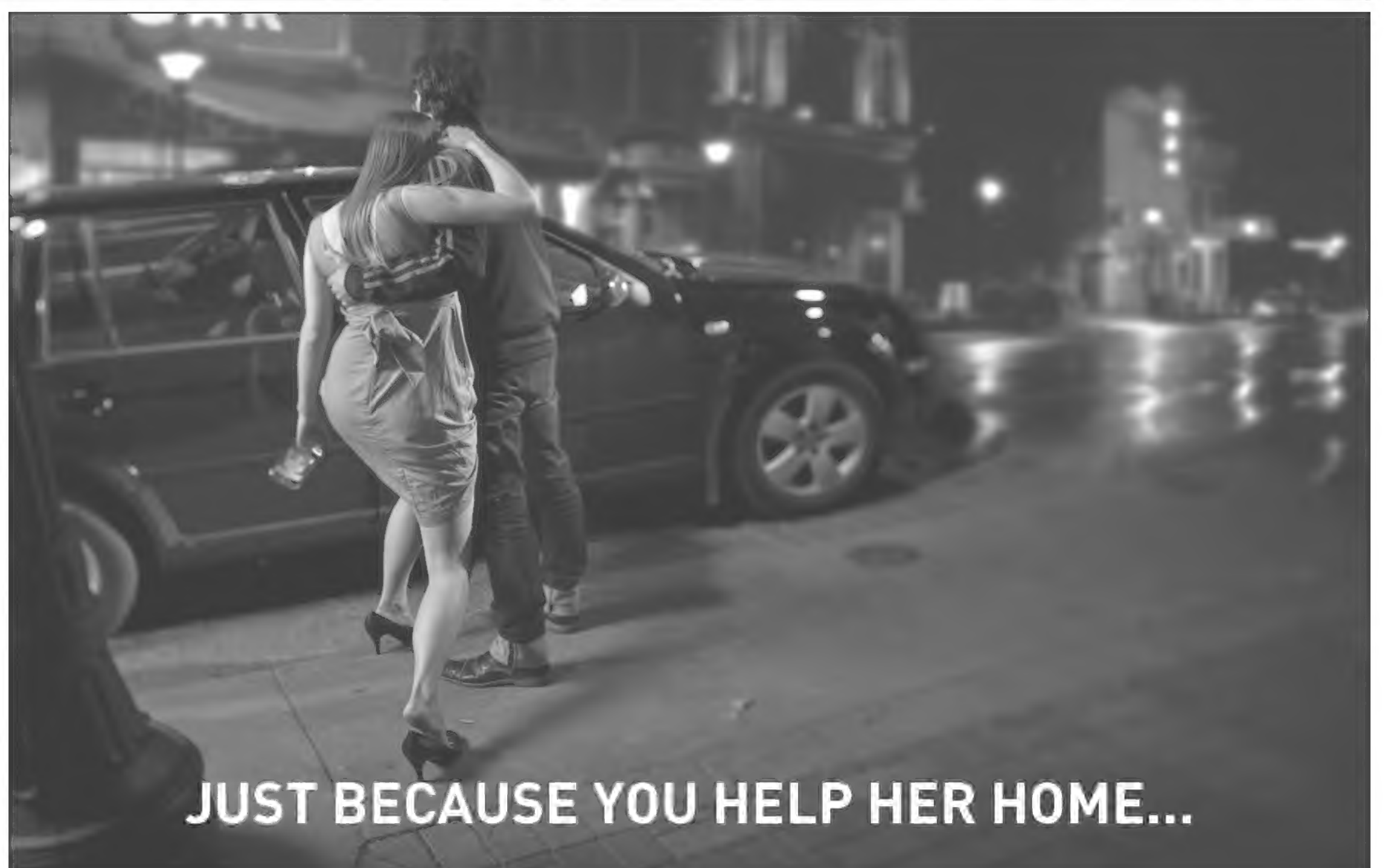
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AARON YEO

Food industry unsustainable, according to dietary expert

MIRANDA KOLODNICKI
News Writer

A leading expert on diet and the environment told a University of Alberta audience last Thursday that we need to stop making dietary choices based on convenience.

John Robbins, heir to the Baskin-Robbins ice cream chain, left the industry to advocate for food consumption that is “humane, compassionate, [and] sustainable.” Issues such as the environment were discussed broadly throughout his lecture, which was broadcast live from California.

Robbins pointed out that we waste a great deal of food and this elaborate consumption comes with risks. He added that most of us base our choice of food on taste, cost, and convenience, but said that there is more to be considered.

“There are larger costs that we don’t factor in, that don’t show up at the cash register,” he said. “The cost to our health is serious. The cost to our planet is serious, the cost to those people who aren’t fed because the food resources that could be used to feed them are used to feed our gluttonous appetites are serious.”

He spoke about the inefficiency of North American food production and the waste of land, water, and resources that are lost to wasteful means of production, challenging the audience to think about their consumption.

“What you have to figure out, is are you eating out of habit, cultural conditioning, [or] convenience? Or are you standing up and challenging that conditioning, that imprisonment of convenience and subscribing to a way of life, a diet style that reflects your heart, your compassion, your joy in being part of the healing of our world?” he asked the audience.

Robbins referenced a 2006 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, entitled “Livestock’s Long Shadow,” which found that the greenhouse gas emissions from livestock production is greater than that of the transportation sector.

The lecture at the U of A campus was hosted by the Environmental Research and Study Center as one of their many installments of the “Food Futures Lecture Series,” which is intended to get the campus community thinking about conscientious diet choices.

FACTS ABOUT THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

- Livestock production accounts for 70 per cent of all agricultural land and 30 per cent of the land surface on the planet.
- In the Amazon, 70 per cent of previously forested land is now pasture.
- The livestock industry is responsible for 18 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions.
- In the United States, livestock are responsible for:
 - 55 per cent of erosion and sediment
 - 37 per cent of pesticide use
 - 50 per cent of antibiotic use

Taken from the 2006 UN report “Livestock’s Long Shadow”

New way to test for fraudulent bank notes could be on its way

MAZ GHADERI
The Peak (Simon Fraser University)

BURNABY (CUP) — Simon Fraser University alumnus Clint Landrock has created a sophisticated new way to combat counterfeiting with the use of cutting-edge nanotechnology.

Landrock got the idea while studying butterfly wings, a research topic for his masters degree in nano-optics. The idea was to use tiny holes, smaller than the width of a human hair, to produce images to use in fighting counterfeit issues. The tiny reflective mark mimics the way butterfly wings reflect light to create one of the most advanced anti-counterfeiting devices available.

“As a scientist, you are always trying to understand nature and replicate it in some way,” said Landrock, the chief technology officer at NanoTech Security Corp.

Given the level of expertise and

technology needed to produce such a device, Landrock is convinced that this technology has the potential to be the most secure measure against counterfeiting.

“It will likely be the first commercial product to ever use true nanotechnology.”

CLINT LANDROCK
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER,
NANOTECH SECURITY CORP

What makes this device so unique is that it can be designed to reflect only certain colours back to your eyes. This is done by the use of hundreds of thousands of little holes, inspired by the Costa Rican Blue Morpho. This butterfly’s wings reflect certain colours

while absorbing others.

Despite the implementation of watermarks, holograms, and other security features on our bank notes, a 2008 Statistics Canada survey found that 15 per cent of retail fraud that year involved counterfeit money.

The new device is created by milling 60 to 80 million holes in a half centimeter-wide polymer chip. The final product is a bright, luminescent logo made up of minuscule structures that can be embedded onto a bank note.

The Bank of Canada has seen the technology and NanoTech is in talks with several companies with the hopes to implement it onto our Canadian currency.

“It will likely be the first commercial product to ever use true nanotechnology,” Landrock said. “We are designing, developing, and fabricating these devices on a nano-scale. That’s the first time that anyone has ever done that.”

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A STUDY PUBLISHED IN *USA TODAY* LAST WEEK reported that nearly half of American undergraduates don't learn much in the first two years of college. After collecting data from 3,000 students in 29 American schools, the researchers concluded that students spend more time socializing, and less time studying, than their counterparts did 10 years ago. Obviously, the situation in Canada isn't exactly the same, but undergraduates in both countries lead very similar lives.

The study cites professors' prioritization of research over teaching, and students' own preference for social activities over solo study time as major reasons for the lack of learning. It's one of a number of studies published over the past several years detailing the failings of today's youth; one study found that students are more narcissistic than they were in 1982, while another discovered that undergrads are 40 per cent less empathetic than those of the '80s and '90s. We get it — the kids aren't all right. Except that it all seems mostly like hyperbole.

According to sample questions released by the company who did the testing, the research focused primarily on logic, reasoning, and comprehension. While these are skills we should be learning at university, there's a lot more to college life than logic puzzles.

What the study neglects is that a lot of what students learn in college and university isn't easily tested in one broad survey. The understanding of subject-specific concepts, the capacity to recall facts, and hell, even the ability to write a half-decent paper in under 24 hours under extreme pressure and fuelled only by excessive amounts of caffeine, are all factors that aren't easily gauged by a simple test.

It also doesn't make allowances for the many important life skills undergrads learn at university outside of their classes, and I'm not only referring to hangover cures. University is also a place where students learn to establish their independence, make lasting relationships with their peers, manage their own finances with varying degrees of success, and just generally survive in the big, scary world outside of their parents' protective influence. The fact is that students who do nothing but go to class are doing it wrong — most of the best learning opportunities in university don't have much to do with classes, and won't be reflected in any survey.

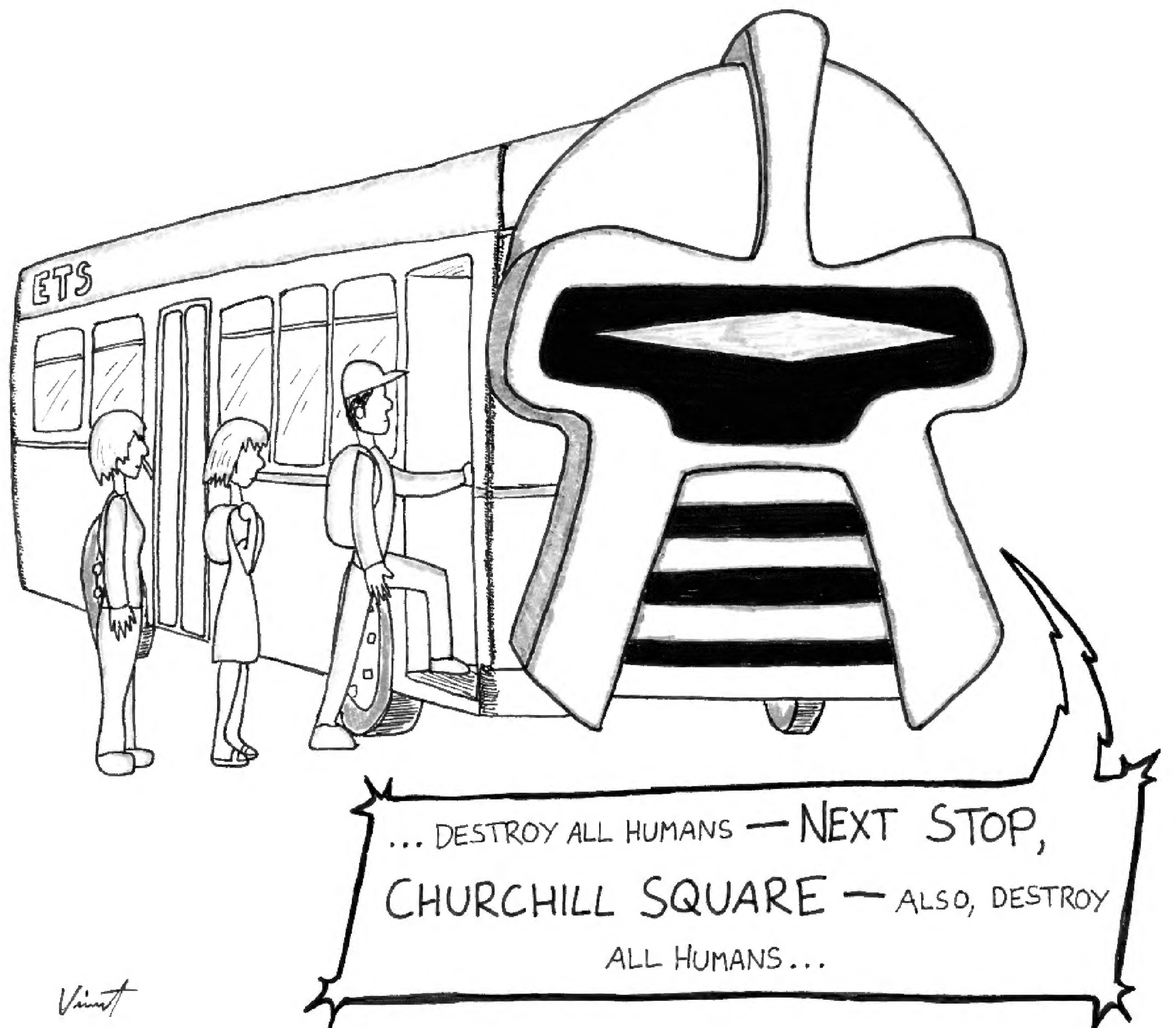
Even if we accept the study's assertion that U.S. students, and maybe even those here in Canada, aren't learning what they should be, suggestions in *The Globe and Mail* that university is "one expensive party" and that "students are sleeping at their desks" is a little insulting — especially when you consider the sorry state of postsecondary education. In the "publish or perish" environment of today's academic world, professors necessarily have to focus on research instead of teaching in order to safeguard their jobs.

At our own humble university, the Faculty of Arts is already painfully underfunded, while budget cuts across the board make it difficult for professors in every faculty to do their jobs. Many students feel like they learn more from their textbooks than from their professors, but with the lack of resources available, it's not surprising that many profs struggle to provide the hands-on educational experiences that many students need to learn effectively. It also doesn't help that the increasing cost of attending university means that many students spend more time worrying about how to pay for their educations than actually getting educated.

It's true that today's students spend less time studying than previous generations, but I doubt Facebook addictions are to blame. We're constantly being told that every generation is worse than the last one, and if it were true, kids today would be a bunch of drooling, illiterate morons without the mental capacity to operate a computer, much less play Farmville. So just relax already — we really are all right.

ALIX KEMP
Opinion Editor

CITY COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING
ADOPTING "SMART BUS" TECHNOLOGY



ROSS VINCENT

letters TO THE eds

Eastham deserves better grade in Executive report card

RE: ("Executive report card," Gateway Staff, January 20)

I was surprised to see James Eastham get a "D" in the most recent Gateway Exec Report Card, particularly since he had been given this grade without even mentioning his performance in the incredibly complex task of being the UASU's main representative in the university governance system, the chief duty of the VP Academic.

The VPA, by virtue of their position, automatically holds seats on upwards of 35 committees around the university, all of which deal with the day-to-day classroom life of students. How you're admitted, graded, transferred; what happens when you're sick the day of a test; how professors' teaching is assessed, if at all; what is required to go on your syllabus, etc, etc. It really goes on and on.

And as the VPA, the members of those committees look to you as the voice of students.

Your opinions matter, people take what the VPA says at these meetings seriously and so you have to be sharp and knowledgeable, every time, without exception.

Preparing, attending and

politicking in-between these meetings takes 30-plus hours per week, even with the UASU's uncommonly high level of staff support behind them.

Grading the VPA without considering this aspect of their job is akin to evaluating a quarterback without considering their pass-throwing and play-calling performances.

My experience, as someone who worked with him until recently, is that James is the hardest working member of an executive committee full of hard workers.

A far cry from the jet-setting, bumbling dolt he's made out to be in *The Gateway*, James is always the best-prepared person in the room; ready to passionately defend the interests of students with a wealth of information, a rigorous critical thought process and the calculated logic to make compelling arguments to professors and administrators two or three times his age and experience.

Of the eight UASU VPA's I worked with, he certainly ranks among the best, even if he's a little too quiet about what he's managed to accomplish. I'd definitely give James a "D" in self-aggrandizement.

If this executive committee were the Beatles, James would be George Harrison: in the background a little, but vital to the success of the team.

CHRIS HENDERSON
Former UASU Director of Research
& Political Affairs

from THE web

A more productive venue for ETS complaints

RE: ("Dear ETS: won't you please stop leaving us out in the cold?" Alex Migdal, January 20)

I sure hope that every time an under-capacity bus blows past you, or every time the LRT makes you late because you didn't anticipate delays, that you're registering your dissatisfaction through the online complaint form or 311.

PATRICK THISTLE
Via Internet

Dean's defense of grading criticized

RE: ("Dean defends Faculty's grading practices," Letters, January 20)

I find it very interesting to hear the Dean say that grades are not arbitrarily changed to fit a curve when every single prof I have had at the U of A has said the exact opposite: that they do, in fact, have to change the final grades in a given class to fit the suggested distribution for a class of that level (in other words, changes the marks to fit a curve).

I have taken several courses in the Faculty of Science, and those profs have told us that they do, in

fact, have to follow a distribution or curve. So are they lying or is the dean lying?

Every prof has made it very clear that our marks will be altered at the end of the course, depending on our standing with respect to everyone else taking the course. So I may have received marks throughout the term that are over 90 per cent, but if I happen to be in a very strong class, full of smart people (or if the prof just happened to grade exams and assignments very generously), then that 90 could turn into a B.

It is one of the things I absolutely hate about the grading practice at U of A: I can be doing incredibly well all term, but I have absolutely no idea what mark I will end up getting because I have no idea where I stand with respect to the rest of the class. I transferred to U of A from another university, because my husband was transferred to Edmonton for work, and my previous university did not grade on a curve at all.

So I knew, going into each final exam, where I stood, and what kind of mark I could expect depending on how I performed on the final. Here, at the U of A, I have absolutely no idea. Sure, I have a general idea — if I've done well all semester with marks over 90 per cent, I can generally expect that to equate to an A or an A+, but I really don't know, as that mark could be changed to something else.

"THE CURVE"
Via Internet

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 7

How unicorns would make the world better



We all know that unicorns don't exist. That's not the point. The point is that they should. Picture a snow-white horse. Now, give it a glorious, flowing, rainbow-coloured tail and mane. Finally, plant a sharp, spiral horn atop that majestic head. Try your hardest to explain why such a noble creature should not exist. Go ahead, I dare you.

Yeah, I didn't think you could. The omission of the unicorn from creation is abhorrent, and if there could ever be proof that no benevolent god exists, this is it. Imagine the joy that could be yours were you offered even the mere possibility of riding such a marvellous beast. The wind through your hair could be no sweeter than when clinging to the supple white flesh of a unicorn.

Together, you would soar through fields lush with delicate flowers, yet with a gallop so soft that not a single daisy would be crushed. No animal could challenge its elegance, form, and passion. A unicorn's beauty is divine, the smoothness of its hair is beyond that of silk, and the ethereal spark in its eyes inspires you. The firm, toned muscles of the beast radiate power as it comes to a stop in a secluded woodland clearing, sunlight flickering innocently through the leaves above. You dismount. It nuzzles at your chest as you stroke its



chiselled head, inviting you to explore its body further. Cautiously, you approach its hind legs, getting closer to the hardening—

Ahem. In the past, the only choice we had was to bleach horses white, dye their hair, and glue on stolen narwhal horns. Not only was this horribly inhumane, but the horns kept falling off, and the narwhal hunts proved to be extremely costly. "Nobody knows what to do with all the meat; it tastes like a cabin boy's seven-week-old crotch sweat," one swarthy 17th century sailor commented, adding, "I just don't think this unicorn thing is economically feasible." It was a lot of effort for unfortunately poor results.

But things are different now. The march of science brings us closer and closer to the opportunity to improve nature — a chance to make things

right. I dream of the day when the first unicorn is created in a lab. I look forward with even greater anticipation to the day when it is released into the wild, to do the things that unicorns are meant for: embodying of the abstract concept of lawful good; appearing to those in need; spreading goodwill and thwarting evildoers; and rescuing virgin maidens from jealous, overbearing rogues. And treating them right. You know unicorns would be romantic. A performance at the theatre, followed by a candlelit dinner. He would order the finest wine, and then take you for a ride through the woods. You would find that special clearing with a bubbling stream reflecting a shattered moon, and with a soft whinny, he would signal that he was ready to—

Sorry about that. I mean, terrorism would disappear overnight. World

peace would be a reality within a week. O.J. Simpson would be compelled to tell us the truth, and organized crime families would repay communities with street parties of unprecedented fabulosity. There are definitely no downsides to the establishment of a population of wild unicorns.

They would even be the ideal roommates. The dishes would be done, dinner would be ready and on the table every day when you got home, and the apartment would be meticulously clean. And on cold nights when the heating is out and your good blanket is too full of vomit from the aftermath of a party, he would even offer the glowing warmth of his body. And you'd feel safe snuggled between those rock-hard hooves, excited by the slowly growing sensation behind you, that ... uh, excuse me.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Gateway's executive report card fails

RE: ("Executive report card," Gateway Staff, January 20)

Year after year, these "executive report cards" are almost comically arbitrary, based more on *The Gateway's* political goals and "pet" executives than on anything factual. It's clear from this analysis that Gateway reporters know even less about the executive portfolios than they do about the SU's general operations.

Other schools' journals attempting to do similar analyses spend hours interviewing the executive members, the council members that supervise them, and the staff that respective executives work with. They go through meeting minutes and key strategic documents, and they familiarize themselves with the general, apolitical functions of their respective Students' Unions as well as the executives' campaign goals.

Yet again, I see no evidence that *The Gateway* has partaken in any such due diligence in completing their "executive report card."

It's a shame; students could use some reliable information about their SU. And where else are they going to find it?

"DISGRUNTLED FORMER COUNCILLOR"
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be emailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca. The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study to be considered for publication.

The end of the world
Stealing candy from children
Unicorns
Postsecondary education
Students' Union elections
Edmonton Transit
Bylaw 3000
American politics

WHAT DO THESE TOPICS HAVE IN COMMON?
THEY'RE ALL PART OF THE GATEWAY'S
OPINION SECTION.

GATEWAY OPINION
What really matters to students since 1910
Opinion meetings are Thursdays at 5 p.m. in SUB 3-04.





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Why does everybody hate fat kids?



BRUCE CINNAMON

Last week, Statistics Canada published reports indicating that Canadians are prone to “sedentary living” and have “dismal daily exercise levels,” as if this were news to anyone. The ensuing CBC coverage hammered us with a series of statistics, focusing on such gems as obesity in children and the waking hours they spend in a state of negligible physical activity — for instance, only seven per cent of children are getting an hour of exercise per day.

The issue here is not the fact that yet another unnecessary study was released by Statistics Canada, nor the CBC’s sensationalist data throwdown, but the fact that the news coverage focuses on the inactivity of children for no clear reason. The reporting wouldn’t be so strange if the study had focused exclusively on children when conducting its research. But instead, coverage of the report mentions that both adults and children were included in the study, then focuses almost entirely on the latter.

From San Francisco’s ban of the classic McDonald’s Happy Meal, to Michelle Obama’s worries that her daughters were getting “a little chubby” and her goal of eliminating childhood obesity south of our border, society is obsessed with getting rid of overweight children.

The CBC report leads with the headline “Canadian youth woefully inactive.” Yet it acknowledges that adults are sedentary for a greater degree of their waking hours and that a higher percentage of them are overweight as compared to children. So why is such focus placed on the fat kids? Why is sedentary living such a crisis in youth, and yet a relatively acceptable vice and unsurprising habit in fat adults?

When a social problem involves everyone, and not just a singular group, it seems strange and unjust to highlight a specific minority group as the paragon of the problem. It’s as if CBC is emphasizing the particular failing of children in order to showcase the relative success of adults.

You’re an overweight thirty-something who gets winded going up a single flight of stairs? No worries, we don’t expect you to be able to exercise as vigorously as that — we’re just proud you made a healthy lifestyle choice. But those goddamn kids better be able to run around outside for several hours without getting tired, or

stop playing video games and start playing tennis, because otherwise something is seriously wrong here.

Children are presented with similar opportunities for exercise and equal temptations of laziness. In fact, children are given less control over their diet and exercise than adults, which means they’re less able to manage their own health. They are often told by a guardian what they’ll eat, what socially approved sport they’ll pursue, and what kinds of foods and activities are absolutely verboten. So why the guilt trip for heaviness?

But when news agencies do stories on healthy living, they prefer to focus their coverage on this group of micro-managed individuals than on those who are given a full range of choice — the ability to exercise whenever they want and eat as healthy as they please — who are grossly overweight and sedentary of their own volition.

It’s an expectation of children to be active, a false notion that they are wellsprings of energy, vitality, and health that for some reason means we should hold them to a different standard than their seniors. Otherwise, CBC’s report might focus more on the general trend of unhealthiness in the population than demonizing children as lazy little fatties who deserve to be called out for their lack of exercise more than any other group.

Rest your heads, oh ye weary students



BRAD CHURY

sweater pillows look like they provide superb support for my vertebrae! Mind if I try out your ergonomics?” If they say no and call the police, then you may have to deal with an irritating restraining order. But if they say yes, you’ve hit the stranger jackpot and found yourself a new napping buddy.

Nap buddies can also help you monitor your duration of slumber — otherwise, you might wake up six hours later, naked and alone like every other Saturday morning. Which brings me to my next point: a good friend watches your shit for you. There are people out there with some sticky fingers looking to liberate your possessions like bra-burning feminists liberate their bodies.

Nap buddies can also help you monitor your duration of slumber — otherwise, you might wake up six hours later, naked and alone.

But if you find yourself forever alone and ridin’ solo like Jason Derulo, that doesn’t prevent you from catching a nice catnap. Libraries can be a great place to do so if you can contain your belongings under your elaborate embrace. Ain’t nothing like catching some delta waves between chapters. Of course, if you snore, then you’re breaking the cardinal sin of the library. Disturb their peace, and they’ll disturb yours. If you

suffer from night terrors, this can be exponentially embarrassing.

Public areas can be workable if you’re the right kind of person. I, for one, would have a tough time sleeping in the middle of SUB like some folks. But if constant noise is your thing, then have at ‘er. You might even be able to sucker a stranger into helping you wake up from a nap by placing a wake-up time Post-It note on your back.

Now what about those really, really sleepy times? For example, imagine you pulled an all-nighter for some reason — hopefully a good reason, like finishing a term paper or poignantly plowing your partner. The next day, the Sandman calls and you need to accept the charges — only problem is, you’re in class.

If you’re in a giant lecture theatre, you should be able to get away with a little snooze, but you can’t be lazy about it. The fake glasses with eyes on them have been ineffective since their inception, and drawing fake eyes on your eyelids is painstaking and needlessly complicated. If you can get away with the old leaning-on-the-elbow routine, or the low-brimmed-cap hustle, then you have a chance of looking like the attentive student you’re supposed to be. You may even be able to learn a bit through osmosis.

Once you’ve rested up, you’ll have to get your head back in the game. A strong cup of coffee or a sugar-packed energy drink will keep you on your toes for the rest of the day — of course, they might also have helped you avoid the need to nap in the first place.

THREELINESFREE

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

Lost: set of keys with Lego Chewbacca keychain. Please bring to Gateway office if found.

Dear Justin Bell: You’re a conservative idiot. But, you’re hot, so it’s forgivable. Please have sex with me. Love, etc.

Guys who read are sexy, so stop checking your Facebook on your mobile and pick up a damn book.

To the guy in Anthro 101 with me, please shut up. I don’t pay \$500 to hear YOU arguing with the prof...

Don’t be a hater. Shower-masturbation is natural and relatively easy to clean up. At least they’re not doing it on the couch in the living room.

Does anyone else dislike the new non-folded Gateway?

University of Alberta's

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Dark Valentine leaves the heart black and blue

filmreview

Blue Valentine

Directed by Derek Cianfrance
Starring Ryan Gosling, Michelle Williams,
and Faith Wladyka
Now playing

DULGUUN BAYASGALAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, moviegoers may have *Blue Valentine* at the top of their lists to mark the occasion. It should be noted, though, that the title is misleading and the dominant word is, in fact, "blue." Despite Ryan Gosling's reputation, which seems to stand largely as the ultra-faithful, I'll-build-you-a-house guy, this is not *The Notebook*; arguably, it's quite the opposite.

The situation is certainly familiar, with Gosling playing Dean, a curious and affectionate

blue-collar dreamer, and Michelle Williams playing the shy but feisty Cindy. The pair fall in love, entering into a hasty marriage — a fate which keen viewers will have instantly guessed to be bitter. However, this knowledge doesn't spoil the movie; the design of the film seems to draw meaning not from the classic how-will-it-end tension, but from its enlightening candour.

This 12-years-in-the-making sophomore feature from director Derek Cianfrance is a brutally honest and naked depiction of how love can keel over and ultimately die, exhausted in the face of reality and choking on the pressures of marriage. This is rendered decidedly more poignant and tragic with the tender first days of the courtship intercut and juxtaposed with the couple's present turmoil.

It may sound like an undesirable ordeal to experience in the cinema (or anywhere for that matter), but what makes *Blue Valentine* so rewarding and refreshing is the brave and earnest insight it provides into dysfunctional marriages — which, sadly enough, seem all too prevalent nowadays

— and the wicked face of love that Hollywood typically shuns. Rather ironically, this is a face that Hollywood itself helped carve with its maudlin chick-flick chisel.

Also adding to the film's effectiveness is the unquestionable acting in *Blue Valentine*. Williams' performance is stripped bare and comes off as fiercely natural. Opposite her, Gosling's haunting ability to transform himself into an entirely different person has never been as palpable as through his character Dean, and the couple's chemistry on the big screen is undeniably potent.

The proof of this assertion lies in the distinction between the two different time frames: the emotional contexts are opposites, yet they both feel wholly authentic. In the present after the relationship's slow decay, Dean tries desperately to rekindle the dwindling flame of the couple's initial encounters, only to be burned by its futility. The tension and estrangement that lingers relentlessly in the air creates an unshakable feeling of vulnerability and powerlessness, almost like watching mommy and daddy fighting.

Then as the pendulum swings back to the early days, the enchantment and romance — accompanied by music by Grizzly Bear — brews ardently. It's hard to believe that the characters' two sides represent the same people.

This is made possible both by the actors' dexterity and Cianfrance's thoughtful artistic expression, in which his experience with documentaries enhances the vivid sense of life-like presence. Extensively employing handheld cameras, the director takes extreme close-up shots of the present-day characters where they are rarely on the screen together, creating an isolated, claustrophobic space. At the brink of suffocation, the former days of their love intervene to loosen the grip and let us gasp.

Blue Valentine is merciless in its tension and sparing in its moments of relief, causing a slight imbalance in the forces that arguably keep it from reaching its full cathartic potential. But with a certain deftness, the movie maintains interest while being unapologetically predictable, and it is most definitely a film to see — just not on Valentine's Day.

Meat Puppet has right ingredients, but final product lacks panache

theatrereview

Meat Puppet

Written by Leif Oleson-Cormack
Directed by Trevor Schmidt
Starring April Banigan, Sharla Matkin,
Cody Ray, and John Hudson
Varscona Theatre
(10329-83 Avenue)
Runs until February 6
Tickets \$18-26, pay-what-you-can for
Saturday matinées

ALEX MIGDAL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If you've ever watched an episode of *To Catch A Predator*, then you're aware of its cringe-inducing nature. Part crime-fighting-series, part exploitation exposé, the now-defunct program that lured and entrapped online predators is a fascinating and often uncomfortably hilarious look at the

darker side of the internet.

This distinctive tone carries over into *Meat Puppet*, a satirical homage that also questions the show's dubious morality following a 2006 incident where a high-profile district attorney shot himself before he could be detained by a SWAT team on camera. But while the play establishes the television program's tone, it maintains it so unevenly that the message of the story gets lost in translation.

The first act makes the play seem like a downright farce more than anything else. It introduces Chuck Dalmer (John Hudson), an investigative telegenic journalist who hosts the *To Catch a Predator*-style program *Red Letter* alongside his producer Deb (April Banigan). They set up their latest sting operation at the home of police officer Marcia (Sharla Matkin), whose famous film-actor neighbour is their most high-profile target yet. Things get thrown for a loop when Marcia's

...While the play establishes [*To Catch a Predator*]'s tone, it maintains it so unevenly that the message of the story gets lost in translation.

son Clay (Cody Ray), a YouTube sensation who runs his own crime-fighting series, gets involved in the operation in more ways than one.

The script, written by Edmonton playwright Leif Oleson-Cormack, is peppered with crude and comical lines that poke fun at *Red Letter*'s lack of journalistic integrity, but the action unfolds at a bumpy pace. The first act ends abruptly and without much plot development, other than the introduction of some silly storylines like

a potential fling between Marcia and Chuck, which flatlines in the second act. Coupled with a strange twist in the play's latter half, the whole affair becomes jumbled and frenzied.

Thankfully, the production's quartet of energetic and committed actors manages to keep the dialogue moving at a breakneck pace, disguising many of the story's imperfections. John Hudson plays Chuck with just the right mix of pomposity and arrogance, while April Banigan's portrayal of Deb is spot-on, bringing multiple layers to her character. Sharla Matkin is arguably the standout as Marcia, a homophobic police officer who refuses to accept her son Clay's true identity. While comically adept for most of the play, she also provides its most powerful moment in a scene when she unleashes a torrent of rage and frustration upon him.

The character of Clay is the play's weak spot, as he seems entirely without purpose. The characterization is

troubling: he starts off a rebellious and big-mouthed teenager who seems to be around to shock and incite laughter and eventually turns into an emotionally distraught young man who is denied acceptance by all those around him due to his sexual orientation. While actor Cody Ray does a fine job of playing Clay and puts just the right amount of bite into his words, the evolution of his character throughout the span of the play is puzzling. He sneers, cries, does a striptease, is suddenly brainwashed by fame, embellishes the truth, and then breaks down into tears.

In a sense, the problems that afflict Clay are akin to the problems that plague the play as a whole. While *Meat Puppet* is no doubt snarky and oftentimes very funny, it can't quite decide what it wants to be. A crude farce? A high-stakes drama? An exposé on the difficulties that gay teens face? While the show may be meaty with ideas, they're all just a bit too undercooked.



Cancer Bats' hybrid musical style flies into new territory

musicpreview

Cancer Bats

With Devildriver and Baptized In Blood
Friday, January 28 at 8 p.m.
The Starlite Room
(10030-102 Street)
Tickets \$25 at ticketmaster.ca

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Canadian bands have had a notoriously difficult time breaking out beyond our country's borders. Groups like the Tragically Hip and Blue Rodeo have reached legendary status within our northern boundaries, yet fail to make the same impact upon the rest of the world.

There are relatively few exceptions to this rule. But recently, bands from Canada's punk and metal underground have begun to receive their due recognition. Toronto hardcore group Cancer Bats have not only outgrown the small venues they once frequented, but have also graced the pages of influential British punk/metal magazines alongside fellow Canucks Comeback Kid, proving that the world is finally

becoming receptive to their unconventional brand of music — a distinct mix of genres that sometimes makes it difficult for the band to blend in with their peers.

"We have a hard time finding who to tour with because nothing is a perfect fit," says drummer Mike Peters. "That is our biggest problem. [Our] label doesn't necessarily push us to tour with certain bands, but they do give suggestions based on who is available and if it will work money-wise. It's not always the most ideal tour, but it always turns out fun."

The wide variety of groups Cancer Bats has joined on tour has no doubt helped to increase their exposure and contribute to their fast rise in popularity. After a recent stint supporting radio rock group Billy Talent, the band headed out to play dates with political punks Anti-Flag and legendary New York hardcore group Sick of It All. Now, the Bats mark their return to Edmonton with yet another side of the music scene: death metal group Devildriver. Their selection of tour partners may seem disjointed, but it also reflects the band members' collective musical backgrounds.

"We all definitely associate ourselves with metal and punk," Peters acknowledges. "[Our guitarist] Scott and

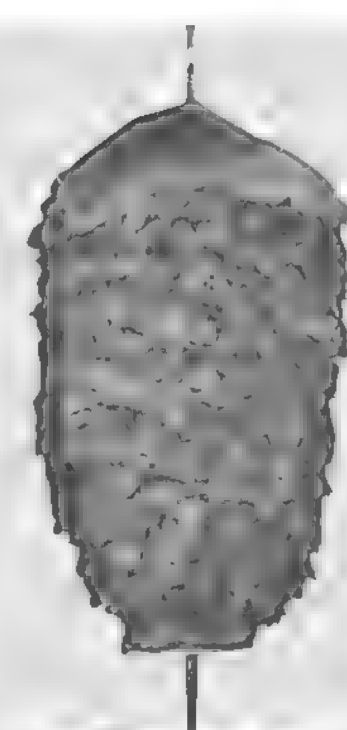
[bassist] Jaye are more of the metal, whereas [our singer] Liam and I grew up more in the punk scene. It's a good balance that we have."

Their increased public support for their sound recently resulted in the decision to rerelease their latest album, *Bears, Mayors, Scraps and Bones*, along with an exclusive live DVD — a move Peters has no regrets about, despite the controversy it caused with fans who had only recently picked it up.

"The deluxe reissue was a record label move," explains Peters. "We recorded our live set from London, and they were like, 'If we package [the live show] with the album, we can get it back on record store shelves.' In this day and age, you need to do something different in order to get [record stores] to stock [your album]. [...] It's a live set and it sounds like a live set. It was fun to go back and listen to it six months later and be like, 'I can't believe that we said that.'"

Cancer Bats' offbeat live show makes for compelling DVD footage, but it's an even better in-person experience. Edmontonians who have yet to encounter their aggressive live show will soon get the chance to meet the band's electrifying raw energy.

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albumreview

The Golden Dogs

Coat of Arms
Nevador Records

KEVIN LEE PINKOSKI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Sometimes growing up doesn't mean getting more serious.

After having shared stages with almost every "alternative musician" in Canada, Toronto's Golden Dogs have aged in a childish way.

Their latest album, *Coat of Arms*, proves that even after nine years and

four albums, The Golden Dogs still have a youthful connection.

The fun-loving band is notorious for their performances, and has been labelled one of the best live musical acts in Canada. *Coat of Arms* shows both the Dogs' experience combined with their energy.

The band has even made their album cover incredibly eerie, with a glowing-eyed puppy right on the front, and includes a full-sized poster of the little pooch.

The band stays young by combining heavy guitar, frisky synth, and amusing organ in a variety of upbeat songs about broken hearts and longing that's reminiscent of unfortunate high school feelings.

An incredibly fun album to take in, tracks like "Cheap Umbrellas" and "Dear Francis" let *Coat of Arms* capture The Golden Dogs' youthful yet seasoned abilities as a band, and is definitely worth a listen — whatever your age may be.

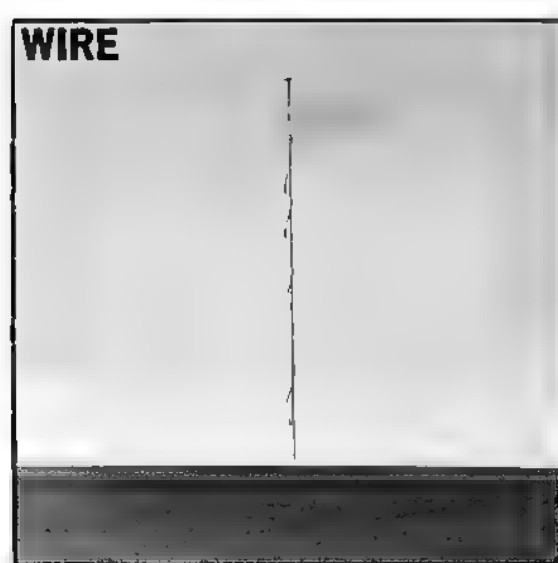


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classicreview

Wire
Pink Flag
Restless Records

GRANT CRAWFORD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Admittedly, I'm not really a fan of the classic reviews: album reviews gain truth when written in the absence of press releases, other reviews, and of course, hindsight. A classic review tends more towards partaking in revisionist history, or, flatly, becoming a love letter. I am, however, for soapboxes, and I do think the case can be made that it is worth mentioning albums such as *Pink Flag* which have so thoroughly challenged the structure of the medium in which they work.

Pitting dissonance right alongside beautiful pop, Wire burn through 21 tracks in under 36 minutes. They play with economy and minimalism with such vigour, using riffs only so long as they are still fresh, abandoning them and moving to wherever the sound needs to go next.

They hurry with unpredictability, not

abandon. Impressive not for its technicality, but rather for the ideas: the disassembling of the standard pop song and its subsequent reassemblance.

Using nothing but the essentials, Wire were punks as failed artists, making art from the detritus of pop music.

Pink Flag was released in 1977, and eight months later, Wire had changed their sound so significantly they were no longer playing *Pink Flag* material live, instead touring with a Wire cover band that played the album before their sets for fans who still wanted to hear it.

But the art itself should be able to exist without the artist anyway. Wire was composed of the unassuming types you wouldn't recognize in a bar, but that's a good thing; by the time you find them, they'll have changed into something unrecognizable anyway.



albumreview

Les Jupes
Modern Myths
Head In The Sand Records

KEVIN LEE PINKOSKI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Les Jupes frontman Mike Petkau Falk can sing — he just can't seem to decide what he should sing about.

Modern Myths, the freshman release from Winnipeg group Les Jupes, is a combination of Petkau Falk's baritone voice and a slew of instruments, varying from typical rock band instruments to songs that include harpsichord, saxophone, and even bassoon.

The unique combination of musical soundscapes supports Petkau Falk's voice to create addictive, unique songs that are irresistible to sing along to. There's no doubt that *Modern Myths* is well crafted in every way, including the production, handled by Marcus Paquin, who also worked on Arcade Fire's *The Suburbs*. It's surprising that Les Jupes would recruit a high-profile producer, as Petkau Falk openly admits in his songs that he doesn't take himself seriously.

This lack of seriousness is the only real problem with Les Jupes' first offering. The subject matter of the songs on *Modern Myths* is obscure and slightly ridiculous. It's very difficult to sing along with Petkau Falk when it's taxing to figure out what he's actually singing about. Themes range from mathematics to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, and the lyrics can be interpreted so many different ways that it's tough to find anything that ties the whole album together. Petkau Falk claims he sings without seriousness, though if he took himself slightly more seriously, he might have created a more consistent album.

Les Jupes' first musical offering combines unusual vocals and an unpredictable landscape of sounds that make for an album worth hearing. Unfortunately, Petkau Falk's haphazard songwriting might keep you from singing along with confidence.

"I used to walk
down the
street like I
was a fucking
star. I want
people to walk
around
delusional
about how
great they can
be — and then
to fight so hard
for it every day
that the lie
becomes the
truth."

— Lady Gaga

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Danko Jones sticks to their guns

musicpreview

Danko Jones

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ANDREW JEFFREY
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Nothing lasts forever — especially not in the music industry. Bands come and go with incredibly short lifespans, musical genres fade in and out of style, and what is popular to the mainstream public can change in a second. It's a fickle, difficult business in which to gain and maintain success.

Yet if you listen to Danko Jones bassist John Calabrese discuss it, it seems that the band's longevity is no great feat. The members of Danko Jones have been playing together for almost 15 years, becoming a consistent presence in Canada's hard-rock scene. Last year marks the release of their sixth album, *Below The Belt*.

"You just do what you love, I guess.

That's it," Calabrese says nonchalantly. "When you lose that, you try to second guess yourself and try to look for a sound. But we know what we are: it's just meat and potato rock and roll."

It's this simple fact that makes Danko Jones' longevity impressive. In 2011, music charts are mostly dominated by pop music, R&B, hip-hop, and electronica. The hard-rock genre of Danko Jones has largely been pushed to the side by mainstream audiences, but Calabrese sees no reason to change what's worked so well for them for this long.

"There's no pressure on our part to grow up," Calabrese says with a laugh. "We're fine being the way we are. We're not opposed to trying different things, but at the end of the day, we're a rock band. You're not going to get a pop song out of us; you're not going to get anything else. We know what we sound like and what we do as a band."

Calabrese is far from becoming bored with his ensemble's admitted lack of maturity. Danko Jones' instantly noticeable raw energy hasn't diminished, and the band is still as committed to winning over fans and putting on a powerful show as they

were when they started out. Calabrese believes that all the time they've spent on the road, including more than 240 days of touring last year alone, has only improved the group.

"We've been such a toured band. We've been on the road for so long, so we have a good gauge for what's going to work in a live setting," explains Calabrese.

"We're road dogs. We've been out on the road forever, so we just feel comfortable doing that. Now, I would love to be on my couch 24/7; it's comfortable. But that's not the case."

There's a certain eagerness to his voice when Calabrese talks about playing shows that implies he'd easily rather be on stage in front of a cheering audience than on his couch in front of a television. More than a decade in the music industry has allowed Calabrese and his bandmates to improve through experience, yet their approach hasn't changed. Danko Jones have a classic rock 'n' roll style of confidence, and no matter how much the industry may change, they will always remain consistent — just don't expect them to mature any time soon.

FLOP CULTURE

If you pay any attention to the video game scene, you've probably heard of a little franchise known as *Call of Duty*. Additionally, if you own a Mac, you're probably aware that up until a few months ago, the gaming scene for you was pretty much non-existent. However, since the introduction of Steam and the App Store on the Mac, things have picked up considerably.

Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare for Mac dropped on January 13 — otherwise known as the game that basically

redefined first-person shooter multiplayer. To say that the Mac release has not been handled well would be charitable.

The App Store for Mac is the only store carrying the game right now. For reasons unknown, Apple has taken the initiative to usurp the Entertainment Software Rating Board's "Mature 1/+" rating in favour of a rating of 12+. Who was the asshole who determined this? This game is visceral, graphic, and the language at times is colourful, to put it mildly.

Questionable rating aside though, the glaring issue with the release has been the availability of multiplayer options. Aspyr Media, the company that ported the game from PC to Mac, seriously screwed the pooch. A quick Google search reveals threads upon threads of people who can't connect

to any multiplayer servers. Five of the 10 reviews on the App Store itself detail problems with it, and there's a message on the game's page directing those affected by multiplayer problems to email their support team.

Here's a tip, Aspyr: if you're going to release a game that is critically acclaimed primarily for its multiplayer, that's probably the one thing you should try not to fuck up. Mac gaming is only now starting to come into its own and should be allowed to flourish. Buggy ports of PC titles aren't the way to do that.

JORDAN CHING

Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.

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BEARS
BASKETBALL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21



97



67

	1	2	F
Alberta	49	48	97
Manitoba	30	37	67

Game Leaders

Points	26 (Sean Maxwell - MAN.)
Assists	5 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Rebounds (Def)	7 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Rebounds (Off)	4 (Robert Dewar - AB)
Three Pointers	8 (Sean Maxwell - MAN.)
Steals	2 (Kenneth Ottenno - AB)
Turnovers	8 (Robert Dewar - AB)
Minutes	32 (Josh Ogden - MAN.)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22



76



60

	1	2	F
Alberta	35	41	76
Manitoba	26	34	60

Game Leaders

Points	23 (Daniel Ferguson - AB)
Assists	4 (Daniel Ferguson - AB)
Rebounds (Def)	6 (Robert Dewar - AB)
Rebounds (Off)	5 (T. Bergen-Henengouwen - AB)
Three Pointers	4 (Eric Garcia - MAN.)
Steals	3 (Sean Maxwell - AB)
Turnovers	4 (Daniel Ferguson - AB)
Minutes	37 (Josh Ogden - MAN.)



Canada West Standings

	GP	W	L	Streak
UBC	18	16	2	W12
TWU	18	16	2	W14
Saskatchewan	16	13	3	W10
Alberta	18	12	6	W3
Regina	18	10	6	W2
Victoria	18	11	7	W4
Manitoba	16	7	9	L6



ARMAND LUDNICK

Court Bears triumph over the Herd

basketballroundup

Bears vs. Manitoba Bisons

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

In the final moments of the second quarter of Saturday evening's game against the Manitoba Bisons, the normally quiet C.G. Morrison dribbled up the court, paused for his stagnant offence to establish their positions on the court, and then, at the top of his lungs, yelled, "Let's go! Let's go!" From there, the Green and Gold never looked back, sinking a series of three-point shots and bearing down on the defensive end to hold their opposition to just three points in the next five minutes of play, and closing out the game to claim a series sweep over the visiting Bisons. As Bears head coach Greg Francis pointed out, Morrison's impassioned words may be the defining moment of the team's season.

"C.G. is a winner. He's been a winner in this program. As a captain, he really helps us with our leadership. He is the one guy on the team who can cut through the bullshit and say, 'Hey guys, this is what we've got to do.' I think the guys really respect him for that."

Coming into this weekend series, the Bears were struggling to find an identity. The Green and Gold had conceded an average of 77.1 points per game over the first 16 games of the season. However, this weekend saw the squad dedicating themselves to establishing a defensive presence to

hold the Bisons to less than 70 points on two consecutive nights.

The Bears had such a strenuous time guarding their own rim in part due to the inexperience of their roster. With only three returning players from last season, the squad has been unable to commit to defending their own rim. The team's defence this season often devolved into chaos, leaving gaps for their opponents.

if they want to claim national championship glory at the end of the year. On several occasions this weekend, the Green and Gold began to relax and allowed their opponent to claw their way back into the game. And with only six games remaining in the regular season, the urgency to develop a stronger mental fortitude becomes more intense.

"I still don't think that we are at the level of the top teams in terms of mental toughness. We haven't

"C.G. [Morrison] is a winner. He's been a winner in this program [...] He's the one guy on the team that can cut through the bullshit and say, 'Hey guys, this is what we've got to do.' I think the guys really respect him for that."

GREG FRANCIS
HEAD COACH, BEARS BASKETBALL

This weekend, however, marked a paradigm shift for the team. With a leadership core starting to shine through, the Bears took the court as a unified whole, displaying a committed attitude not previously seen by this year's squad.

"It was about us this weekend. When we play aggressively, we are a better team," Francis explained. "When we start to read and play within our heads too much, it really hurts us. Whenever I try to get these guys inspired, I try to talk about the defensive end."

But the Bears still have plenty of hurdles to jump

proved anything yet. We've shown that we have the talent to make things happen, but it's going to be an inner battle to stay consistent," Francis said.

"I try to challenge guys, but mental toughness is the big thing for us. Because we are so young, the guys are not ready to take on responsibility at an individual level. The challenge that I always put forth to these guys is, 'What are you going to do? What are you going to do to hold your teammates accountable?' That's going to be our challenge, but I think we can get there before playoffs start."

Puck Pandas put Dinos on ice

hockey roundup

Pandas vs. Calgary Dinos

JUSTIN BELL
Managing Editor

The defending CIS-champion Pandas hockey team showed that they belong amongst the best varsity teams in Canada this weekend by pulling off a series sweep against their provincial rival Calgary Dinos to guarantee themselves a playoff spot in this year's post-season.

It was a close pair of games for the women's hockey team, with a nail-biting 2-1 shootout win on Friday followed by a 1-0 victory on Saturday night. They were important decisions for a team grasping to maintain the top standing in the ultra-competitive Canada West.

"We're so tight in the standings, any leeway is positive at this stage," Pandas head coach Howie Draper said. "We have two more tough weekends ahead of us and hopefully we can keep this going."

Heading into the weekend, Draper's strategy was to contain the Dinos star player Hayley Wickenheiser, who leads the Canada West division in both goals and assists. She would pot her team's lone goal on the weekend on Friday before going off halfway through the game due to a knee injury.

However, Draper's job was made easier when Wickenheiser missed Saturday's game due to a knee injury. The star's absence allowed the Pandas to expose the weaknesses of the remaining Dinos roster, limiting their time and space with the puck and allowing the Pandas to capitalize on the inexperience of the young Dinos squad.

Third-year forward Karla Bourke would play the hero in both weekend games, scoring the winning goal in Friday night's shootout victory, streaking down the left wing at Clare Drake Arena to spoil the Dinos' chance at redemption on Saturday evening.

"I just saw it was an [odd man rush] and I figured maybe I could beat that defencemen," Bourke explained, describing the game-winning goal on Saturday evening. "[Andrea] Boras chucked me a really nice pass and I just deflected it in."



DANIELLE JENSON

"Without question, she creates a lot of opportunities," Draper said. "She really is a headache for the opponent. It's nice to see the goals going in."

"We're so tight in the standings, any leeway is positive at this stage [...] Hopefully we can keep this going."

HOWIE DRAPER
HEAD COACH, PANDAS HOCKEY

Despite some stand out offensive efforts, the Pandas' special teams struggled this weekend. While they were 100 per cent on the penalty kill, they couldn't manage to put the puck in the net when Calgary was a man

short. The Pandas had eight power-play chances in Saturday's game, but couldn't convert on a single one, even during a two-man advantage in the first period.

"It just comes to bearing down on them when we have the opportunity," Draper said. "It was difficult for us to get to rebounds. It's something we can hopefully fix."

Draper will have to get the special teams working if his squad hopes to make a successful run into the post-season this year. After clinching a playoff birth this weekend, the Green and Gold will likely face-off against the Dinos again in the post-season. However, with the added playoff intensity in combination with the likely return of Dinos powerhouse. Hayley Wickenheiser, the Pandas won't be able to rely on squeaking out victories. Solid defence and the incredible play of goaltender Michala Jeffries will only take them so far.



DANIELLE JENSON

FLIP-A-DELPHIA The varsity track team hosted their annual Golden Bears and Pandas Open in the Pavilion this weekend, taking home a combined 15 medals and positioning themselves for a strong showing at the upcoming CIS championships.

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Despite adversity, Pandas steam forward with persistent resolve

basketball roundup

Pandas vs. Manitoba Bisons

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

As the final buzzer sounded, Nichole Clarke's 15-foot desperation shot sailed astray from its target. The court Pandas learned a painful lesson in not taking their opponents for granted on Friday evening falling to the struggling Manitoba Bisons 78-76.

their focus on the remainder of the season, according to head coach Scott Edwards.

"Honestly, the team just didn't come out to play. We didn't compete," Edwards conceded. "Manitoba, being 3-11, coming in here and kicking our butt — it's just a case of our kids [taking] them lightly and we didn't come out to compete very hard. That's why kids come to Canada West to play; on any given night, if our opponent plays well, they can beat us. It doesn't matter what their record is, everybody can beat everybody."

While Edwards refuses to make excuses for his team's series split this

the beginning of the season.

Even team captain Marissa Haylett was forced to miss Friday night's match. The fifth-year guard was sidelined with a nagging migraine that she has been receiving treatment for throughout the season. As the tables began to turn in the Green and Gold's favour on Saturday evening, it became apparent that, for the Pandas to be a playoff contender, Haylett will need to remain in the line-up.

"Any loss hurts us. It's really, really hard not to be able to play," Haylett said, reflecting on the frustration she felt being forced to support her teammates from the outside looking in. "But, I'm going to be ready to go for the rest of the games. We are ready to go now. The slump is over and we're ready to go. We definitely have a fire in our belly."

The Pandas dropped down a spot in the national rankings this weekend as a result of their inconsistent performance. However, with the series split, they are only one win away from claiming a berth into the post-season. With only a half a dozen games remaining in the season, the demeanor of the Pandas head coach mirrors Haylett's urgency.

"We set some goals for ourselves in terms of where we want to finish in the conference. We have six games remaining in the season, four of them at home, and we need to get a lot of wins out of them to get a good seed in the playoffs," Edwards explained.

"Every game needs to be a good one — I don't care how it happens."

"Any loss hurts us. But I'm ready to go for the rest of the games. We are ready to go now. The slump is over and we're ready to go. We definitely have a fire in our belly."

MARISSA HAYLETT
GUARD, PANDAS BASKETBALL

But all was not lost. After being stunned on their home court, the Green and Gold came back with vengeance in the second match of the weekend, battling for every ball against the Bisons to retain an advantage for the majority of the game to come away with a convincing 69-57 victory. The team will take the weekend split in stride and set

weekend, only nine out of 15 players on the roster were in uniform for this weekend's tip-off against the Herd. Dealing with an injury plagued team, Edwards was forced to stretch his line-up, relying on an inexperienced backcourt to fill the void left by the absence of several veteran players, including Megan Wickstrom, who fell to a season ending knee injury at



MATT HIRJI



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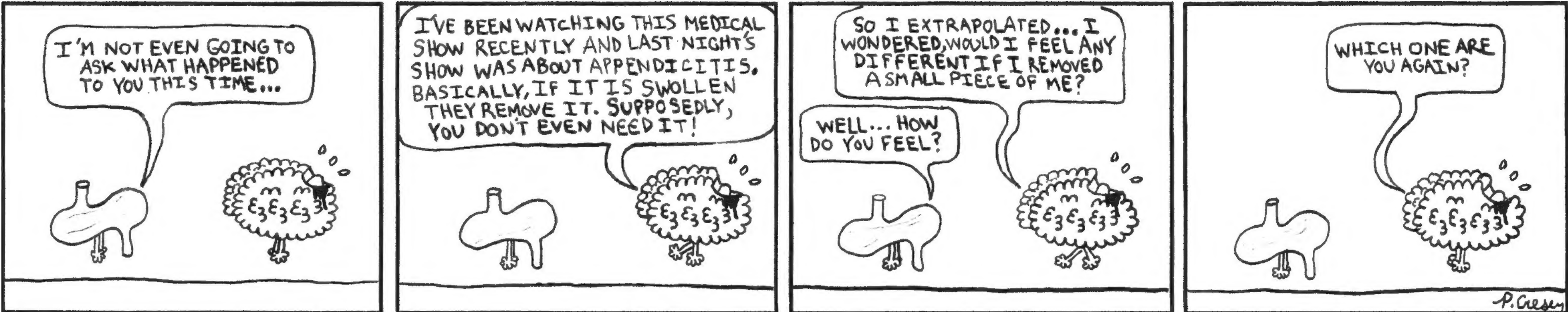
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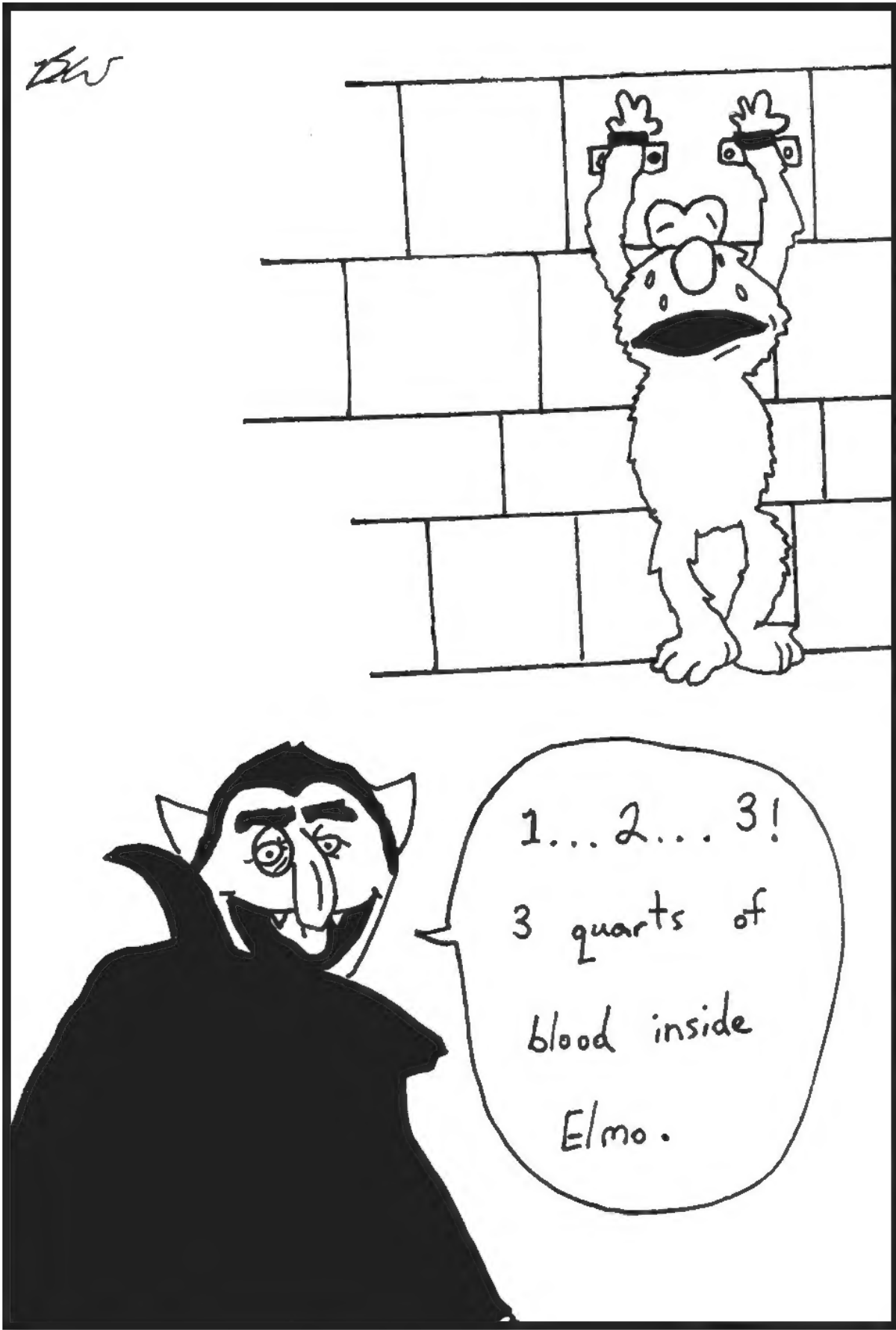
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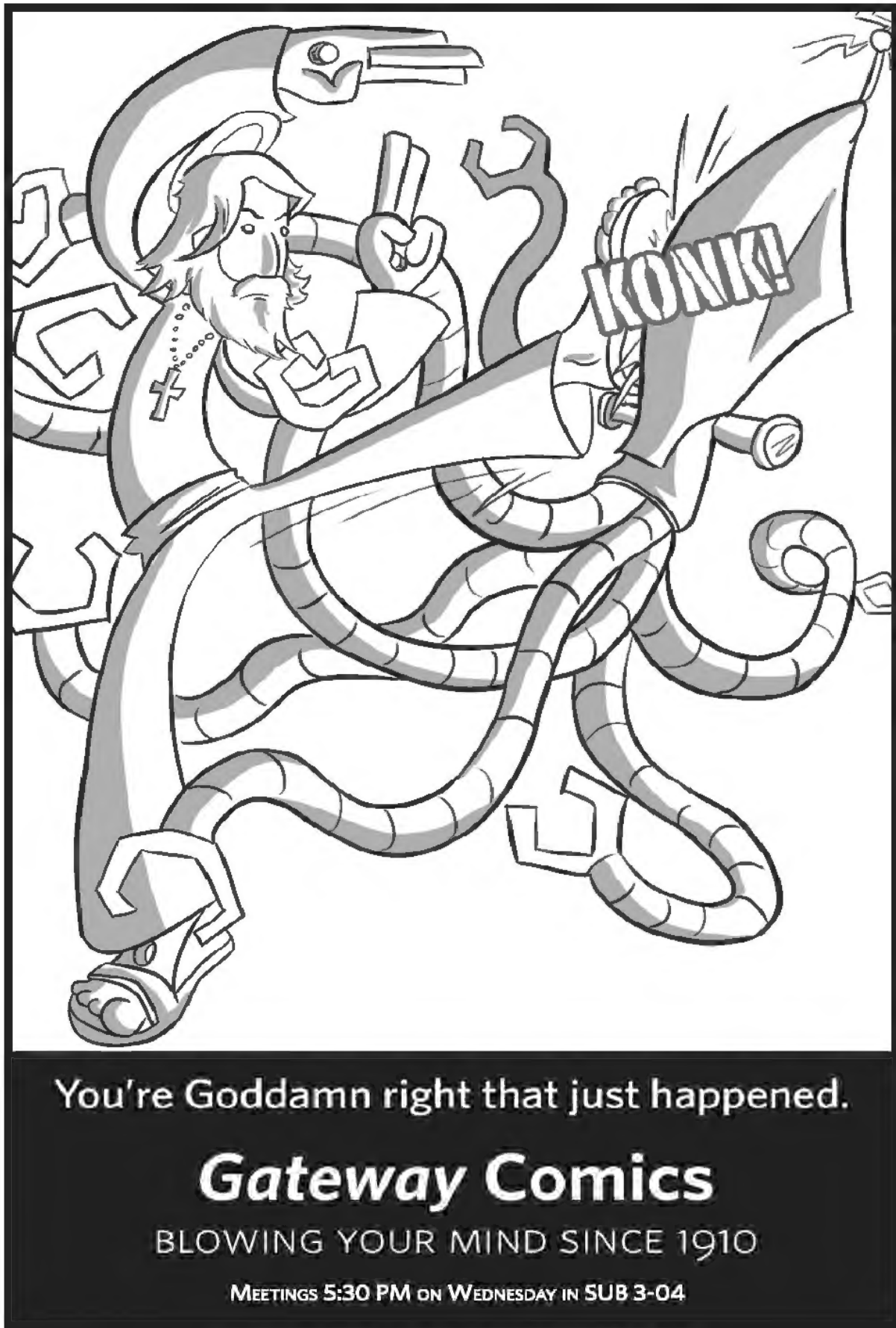
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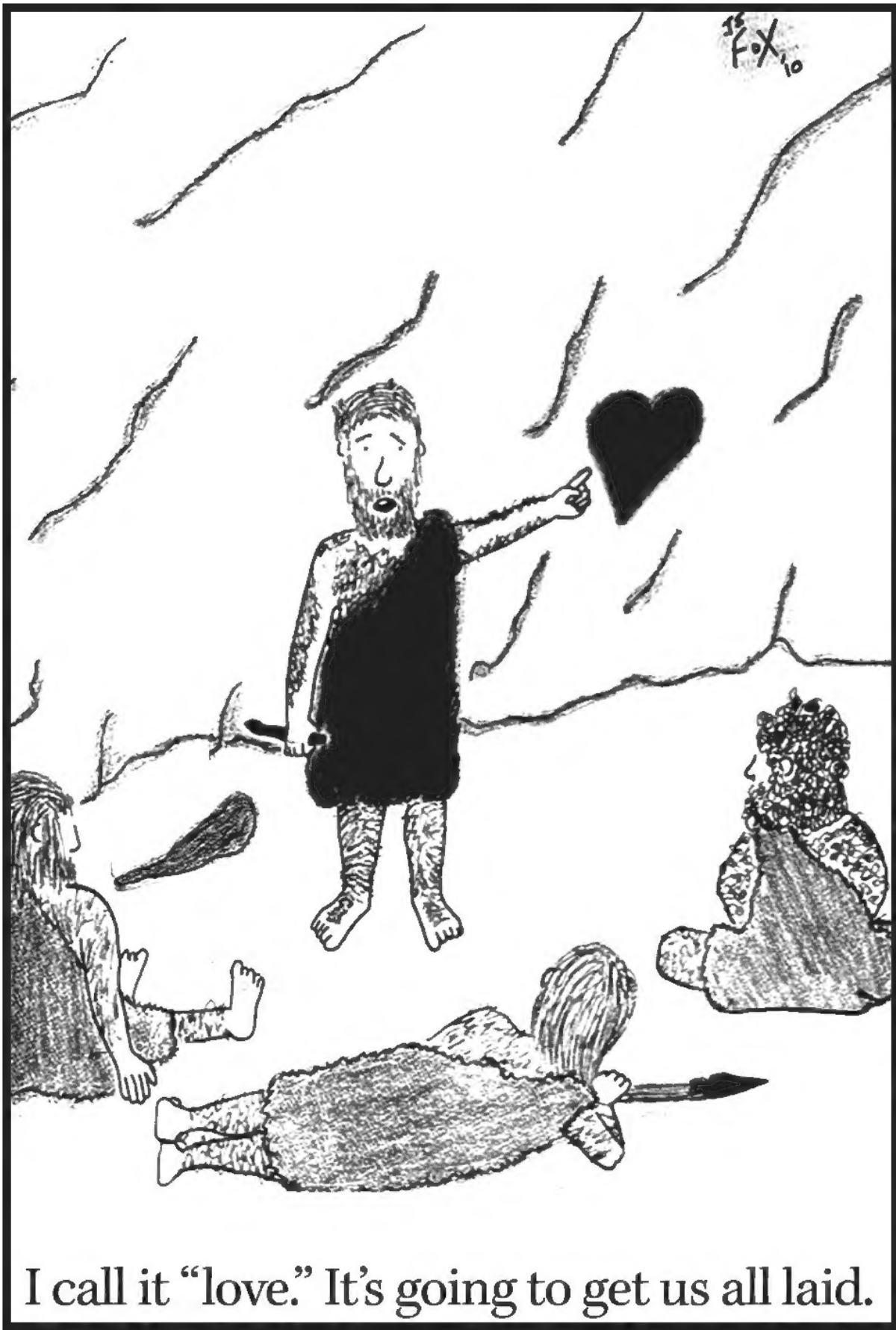
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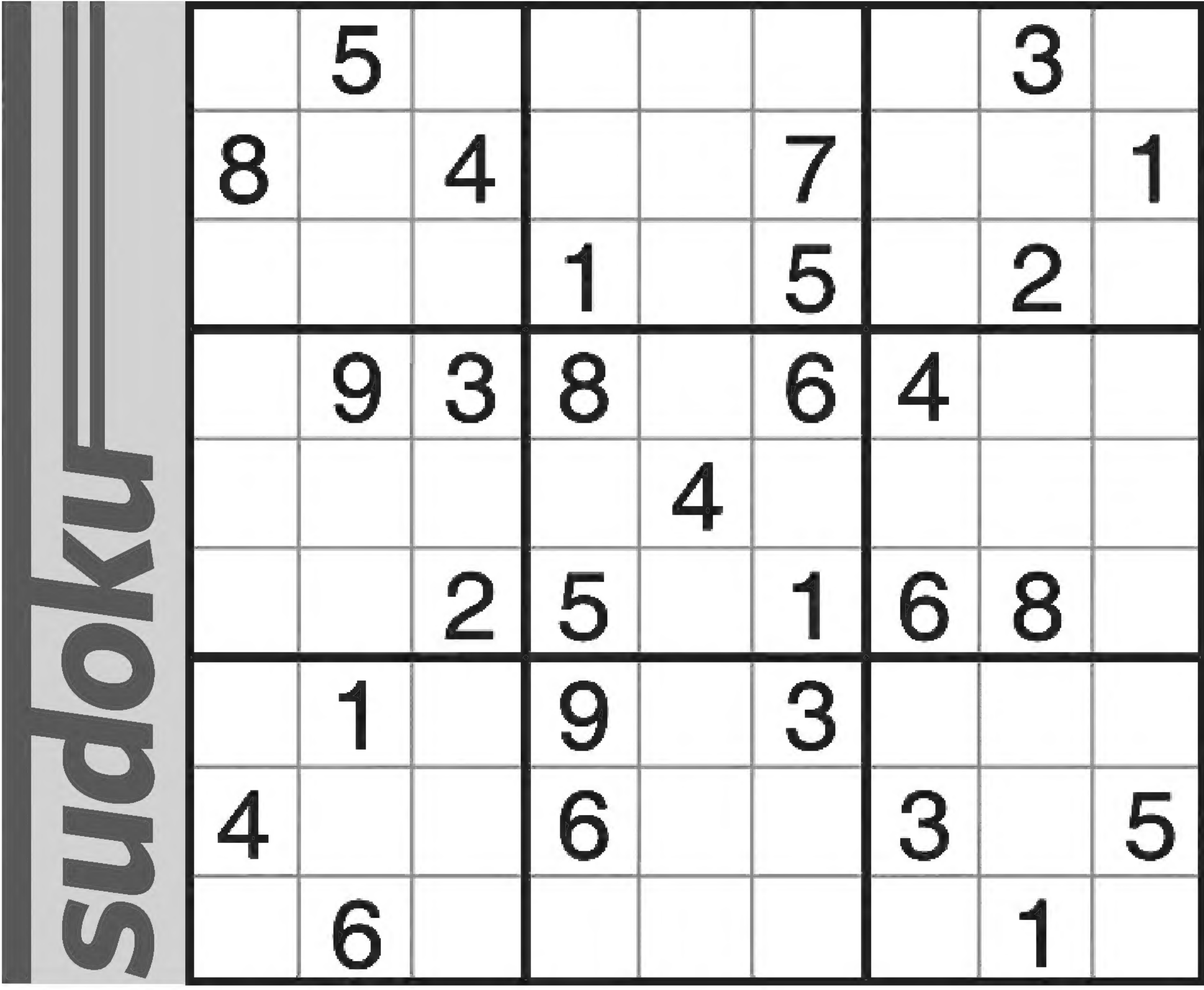
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Personal experiences with the date rape drug

Getting your drink spiked is an incredibly traumatizing ordeal. From bouts of vomiting to loss of memory, the effects are painful and long-lasting. ***The Concordian's* Sarah McMahon-Sperber** talks about her experiences, those of her friends, and the science behind date rape drugs.

There's something about the primal quality of the sound made by someone in raw pain. It's like that of a child who has no way of understanding the source of their agony, and whose cries resonate with undertones of confusion and frustration.

It was that cry that kept me frantic and glued to my friend's side as she crouched on the sidewalk with her head resting on the bumper of a stranger's car. About an hour before, she had come barging into the bathroom to let me know that things were not okay. We had been at a party for less than an hour and had only had a drink each. But something was wrong with her. Something wasn't adding up.

Her symptoms started to escalate. She wasn't coherent, couldn't walk, stand, or even sit up, and was refusing to pull her head out of the plastic bag we had given her in case she felt sick. Fear was setting in.

Hours later, as I stood in her living room with the first rays of sun making their way across the apartment walls and listened to her whimper in the adjoining room, I reflected on my own experience. This was not the first time I had been in this situation, but last time it was me who had been unconscious and waking up with no memory of the previous night.

My father had been the one to pick me up three years before, after being drugged by a stranger and left unconscious on the bathroom floor of an isolated restaurant in downtown Ottawa. He was also the first to hear the panic in my voice as I described my friend's condition. Well-trained by the call he had received from my friends when they had found me, my father calmly tried

to soothe me and make sense of the situation. Were her reactions the same as mine? I had no way of knowing, as I have no recollection of the evening I was drugged. I can picture the friends I had been dancing with that night and vividly recall the sound of Madonna blaring from the bar's speakers. But then the screen goes blank.

My own experience was no use as I grappled with feelings of helplessness and my own inability to stop my friend's pain. Should I be calling for help? Was she going to be okay? How could I have let this happen to her? We should have been more responsible.

Thankfully, we had been responsible. She was safe, just as I had been. Many of those who have been drugged were smart and responsible enough to develop strategies that prevented the extreme from happening. Therefore, we quickly dismiss the abuse, saying "that could have been worse." We keep our heads down and try to forget it ever happened.

That same night, at least two other attendees reported having been drugged. And as we crouched on the sidewalk for nearly an hour waiting for our ride, both security and partygoers attested to having seen quite a few girls leave in a similar state at the beginning of the evening.

Dissecting the drug

The biggest challenge in fighting the dangers of what has come to be known as the "date rape drug" is the complete lack of a standard recipe or ingredient combination, according to pharmaceutical intern Christian Bordeleau.

"The thing people really need to know is that

there is really no antidote or way to get it out of your system, if not naturally with time," he explained. If bought on the streets or from an unknown dealer, the date rape drug is usually a mishmash of ingredients. It can contain gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), methylenedioxymethamphetamines (MDMA), speed, and other miscellaneous fillers — including the common household cleaner Comet — that reduce purity and concentration while increasing profit.

MDMA, a member of the amphetamines family, has a stimulating effect on the central nervous system that results in sensory arousal, possible hallucinations, and a substantial lowering of inhibitions, along with feelings of empathy and well-being. As for ecstasy, it combines the reactions listed for MDMA with the wakefulness, energy, appetite loss, and intense focus of speed. But in most cases of drugging or recreational misuse, GHB shows up as the main perpetrator.

GHB is actually produced naturally by the body in tiny doses, although its biological utility has yet to be determined. Through the years it has been used for many purposes including as a general anesthetic and as a way to augment muscular mass. The physical effects of the synthetic GHB now seen on the streets are highly dependent on the doses given and the user's metabolism. Taking between one to two grams can lead to reduced anxiety, lowered inhibitions, a feeling of drowsiness, trouble co-ordinating movements, and slight sedation, resulting in a muted sense of pain and body awareness. When a strong dose of two to four grams is consumed,

you can enter a hypnotic state that creates a

disconnect between your physical understanding of your environment and your capacity to consciously process that information.

It is at this point that you could, for example, physically understand being led to another location without being able to process the fact that the location is unknown and the person at your side is a complete stranger. Ultimately, if you take over four grams, you face the possibility of general anesthesia similar to a comatose state. Add alcohol to the mix and it is the equivalent of doubling or tripling every drink you consume. The body starts eliminating the drug from its system after four to six hours, but alcohol consumption significantly stretches out the process. The average dose sold on the streets is about 2.5 grams and costs about \$15.

Blaming the victim

So who can we point the finger at? The chances of identifying the person who gave the drugs are slim to none given the speed at which it can be slipped in a drink and the fact that it is impossible to taste once combined with juice or alcohol. So we go looking for the dealers. According to C.J., a drug dealer familiar with the various components and effects of the rape drug, there is no real way to gauge the reason why a person might be buying the drug.

"Your general knowledge of the person is a good indication," he said. He admits, though, that there is no way of being certain they are purchasing for consenting, recreational use.

So why then is the dialogue on this issue so limited, given how extensive its use has become? Whether it is confusion about the drug's effects, shame, mixed reactions from friends, or social stigmas that lead us to believe that the victim was somehow irresponsible, there seem to be many reasons to stay silent.

Gabrielle Turner, 23, was drugged at a small

party consisting of only friends and acquaintances. The reaction she got when trying to talk to the friend who had hosted the evening was flippant, to say the least.

"She kind of giggled at my supposed attempts to cover up my low alcohol tolerance," she said. "And then she asked me who I realistically thought would have done such a thing."

Turner, who was studying interior design at the time, has hardly spoken of that incident in the three years since it happened. After the initial reaction she received, Turner was wary to discussing it.

For Anne-Charlotte Demarle, the reactions she received were quite different. The 22-year-old French student was visiting friends she had made while studying in Montreal when her evening at a party went off

track. As a self-described moderate drinker, she'd drank a single glass of wine before heading out for the celebrations and the equivalent of less than a drink during the five to six hours she apparently spent at the party. Friends, she said, related the bulk of this information to her, seeing as most of the evening has escaped her mind completely.

"I kind of, but hardly, remember looking at my watch around 1 a.m., but according to my friends, we left between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m.,"

she said. "I have no recollection whatsoever of the taxi ride home and the next day, when I woke up, I was in the worst pain I have been in my life."

Demarle described being extremely ill until well past 6 p.m. the next day. She remembered connecting the dots when she was told that another friend who had attended the party had been in the same state. When she recounted her ordeal to family and friends, her story was met with anger, fear and disgust towards the person who had drugged her.

But as Turner's case shows, not all victims are so lucky to find a sympathetic ear. In a culture so deeply engrained in excessive consumption, drug-ging stories are often met with skepticism and doubt. Since drug-ging can be seen, though rarely used, as the perfect excuse for someone who refuses to accept the fact that they drank irresponsibly, it takes only a few dismissive reactions for a victim to fall into silence.

As I related the events of that evening to people around me, I was astonished to see how many were quick to tell me I was exaggerating, that it was no big deal. My friend was safe; that was all that mattered. Let it rest. Another common response was a bombardment of questions about

just how much she had drank and what kind of crowd we had chosen to spend the evening with. Call me naïve, but this seemed beside the point.

Preventing the abuse

Being drugged is a serious allegation to make, as are claims related to the more extreme results of drugging, such as assault.

"To be fair, I get where a lot of people were coming from when they, at first, weren't sure whether I was being dramatic or telling the truth," said Turner. "But once someone you know, and whose judgment you trust tells you they are being serious, no more questions should be asked. Friends and family then need to listen and be supportive."

Fear of judgment should no longer be a key player in this discussion. Education, along with communication, is one of the greatest tools in teaching individuals to distinguish the symptoms of alcohol abuse from those of rape drug toxicity.

"I could never thank my friends enough for staying with and by me throughout the whole evening," said Demarle.

Though she acknowledged that it has been said a million times, the recurring and slightly predictable moral of the story is one she said really does apply. "Keep an eye on your drink, the other on your friends and make sure you always leave with every member of the group you arrived with."

"No matter how bad of a situation you are in, or whether it is your fault or not, everyone needs to have that one person that will show up and take care of the situation without asking too many questions right away," said C.J.

For my friend, that person was her boyfriend. For myself, it was my father. And someday, we might become the person a loved one chooses to turn to.